

ITALY

NSC BRIEFING

11 June 1957

- I. Resignation of Premier Zoli and his all-Christian Democratic cabinet on 10 June has increased possibility of early national elections.
 - A. Zoli resigned because recount of lower house confirmation vote on 8 June showed he had gained majority only by neo-fascist votes--which he had previously promised to disregard.
- II. President Gronchi may now ask another Christian Democrat--Segni, Campilli, Merzagora or Fanfani (party secretary)--to try to reconstitute a center coalition government.
- III. More likely, however, that Gronchi will name a Christian Democrat to head a one-party minority government pending national elections.
 - A. Fanfani reportedly believes such a caretaker government with limited agenda could survive until spring 1958, when national elections are legally due.
- IV. Should earlier elections be decided on, Gronchi would probably call them for fall.
 - A. Constitution provides elections must be held within 70 days of dissolution of parliament by president.
 - B. Parliament must approve provisional appropriations for 1957-58 by 30 June and pass budget finally by 31 October.

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